CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1644
30 May 2001

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LETTER DATED 29 MAY 2001 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE RUSSIAN PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

The Russian delegation shares the concerns of other delegations in the Conference on Disarmament regarding the current situation in this unique multilateral negotiating forum in the field of disarmament. We have carefully studied all the proposals relating to the Conference's programme of work which have been submitted since 1998, the last time the programme of work was adopted, and we highly appreciate the constructive ideas which they contain.

The Russian Federation would like to make its own contribution to these joint efforts by introducing a package proposal on the programme of work relating to the two outstanding issues, namely, nuclear disarmament and the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS). We are proceeding on the assumption that the consensus on the third priority issue - the launching of substantive work in the Conference on FMCT - still exists.

After thorough consideration, we have decided to support the ideas of a large number of delegations in the Conference and to agree on the establishment of an ad hoc committee to deal with nuclear disarmament. The package also makes provision for the establishment at the same time of an ad hoc committee on PAROS, with a negotiating mandate.

In our view, the Russian proposal is constructive and not detrimental to the positions of any delegation. The wording used in both draft mandates is taken from documents that have been adopted by consensus at various international conferences held in the past.

The Russian delegation has already had an opportunity to discuss this proposal unofficially with many colleagues in the Conference. We are especially grateful to those of them who provided comments and suggestions relating to the draft mandates. We made every effort to take these into consideration in the final version of our proposal.

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The Russian delegation hereby requests you, Mr. President, to take the necessary steps to have this letter and the attached proposal on the Conference's programme of work issued as an official document of the Conference and to distribute it to all member States and observers of the Conference on Disarmament. Permit me to express the hope that the Russian proposal will be considered by all delegations in a spirit of good will and will contribute to restarting the work of the Conference.

(Signed): Vasily SIDOROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Draft

Nuclear disarmament

The Conference on Disarmament decides to establish, for the duration of the 2001 session, under item 1 entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", an Ad Hoc Committee to deal with nuclear disarmament.

The Ad Hoc Committee will take into consideration all relevant views and proposals present and future and also address questions related to its mandate.

The Ad Hoc Committee will report to the Conference on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 2001 session.

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Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The Conference on Disarmament decides to establish, for the duration of the 2001 session, under item 3 entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space", an Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on a regime capable of preventing an arms race in outer space. This regime could take the form of an internationally legally binding instrument.

The Ad Hoc Committee will take into consideration all relevant views and proposals present and future and also address questions related to its mandate.

The Ad Hoc Committee will report to the Conference on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 2001 session.